



April 27, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE (01-16)

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District has received notification from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company (BNSF), proposing replacement of parallel bridges over a navigable waterway of the United States. This public notice is being circulated primarily to solicit comment from waterway users, and citizens within the community that may be impacted as a result of the proposed bridge, and to determine any foreseeable needs to the future navigation. The public is highly encouraged to review this notice with attached plans carefully and provide comment on the proposed project.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The unnamed shallow embayment informally known as Post Point Lagoon adjacent to Bellingham Bay at Bellingham, Washington, approximate: Latitude: 48.718395 N, Longitude: 122.516742 W. Bellingham Bay is a navigable waterway of the United States as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

CHARACTER OF WORK: BNSF proposes to replace the twin, parallel bridges, which have reached their structural life expectancy with new parallel bridges comprised of a pre-stressed concrete double cell box girder and 24-inch, concrete and rebar filled steel-piles (12). All work would occur on or through the tracks with staging and material stockpiling areas available within the BNSF ROW at an existing BNSF rail yard approximately 500 feet to the north.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES :

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Horizontal: Normal to axis of channel	10 feet	29 feet
Vertical (above MHW):	5.75 feet,	4.5 feet

PROPOSED COAST GUARD ACTION:

The Coast Guard is considering issuing an Advance Approval for this project, know as the BNSF South Bellingham Bay Bridge project. An Advance Approval is granted for waterways which are navigable in law, but not actually navigated other than by rowboats, canoes, and small motorboats. If an Advance Approval is granted for this project then

the navigational clearances which provide for high water stages will be considered adequate to meet the reasonable needs of navigation. The issuance of an advance approval does not relieve the community of the responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulations for the proposed project. Identification of a waterway as an Advance Approval Waterway is not a major federal action for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act; and therefore, it is considered a categorical exclusion.

ENVIRONMENT:

The Coast Guard considers "Advanced Approval" actions to generally qualify for Categorical Exclusion for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed vertical and horizontal navigational clearances, navigational safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation through the bridge; and the need for a bridge protective fendering system. Mariners also are requested to comment on anticipated future waterway navigational requirements.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impact on minority and/or low income population, if any, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the office of: Commander (dpw), Thirteenth Coast Guard District, 915 2nd Ave, Rm 3510, Seattle, WA, or via email at D13-PF-D13BRIDGES@uscg.mil. The comment period is a thirty day period from the date of this public notice. Map of location and plans attached.

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STEVEN M. FISCHER
Chief, Bridge Program
Thirteenth Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

"This is a web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version."



USGS LOCATION (ELIZA 7.5 QUAD)

USACE REF. NO.:
PROJECT: BRIDGE 93.1 REPLACEMENT
FOR: BNSF RAILWAY CO.
2454 OCCIDENTAL AVE. S. SUITE 2-D
SEATTLE, WA 98134-1451
BNSF LOCATION: NORTHWEST DIVISION, BELLINGHAM SUB DIVISION,
LINE SEGMENT 50, MP 93.1
LEGAL: IN PORTIONS OF S2 T37N R2E
LAT / LONG: 48°43'6.221"N 122°31'0.271"W
WATERWAY: INTERTIDAL EMBAYMENT - POST POINT LAGOON
ASSOCIATED WITH BELLINGHAM BAY
CITY: BELLINGHAM COUNTY: WHATCOM STATE: WASHINGTON
DATE: JULY 2014

DATA SOURCES: BNSF (RAILWAY & MILE POSTS), USGS (TOPOGRAPHY), NATURAL EARTH (STATE MAP), WASHINGTON DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION (STREETS, HIGHWAYS)
MAP PRODUCED BY: J. Patterson & Associates, Inc., - Environmental (JLP-E) | Info@jpaterson.com | 206.363.9386



